



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Assistant Town Manager Josh Gruber 8/6/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders and Guests,

With announcement that our local public schools will be starting the new academic year with virtual learning next month, we know that poses a challenge for working parents in our community as they look for viable childcare options. We are seeking information about childcare programs, tutoring services and other education assistance that we can share with parents through our community resources page, which is accessible through our COVID-19 Hub page (hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID-19).

We encourage organizations, churches, businesses and other licensed childcare providers to complete our Community Business Resource survey and share information about your services. You will need your Town business license number. Information will be listed in our Community Business Resource Directory on the Town's website. Our goal is to help parents and businesses by providing this repository of information. In addition to information being listed in our resource directory, we will include resources we learn about and confirm as a section on our Community Services page.

Here's how to add your information:

- Visit hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19
- Click on the Community Services Box
- On the Community Services page, use the links in our Community Business Resource Directory section to access and complete our information survey.

South Carolina Sales Tax Holiday is this Weekend, August 7-9

Although students will be attending classes virtually, they still may need school supplies. Between tomorrow and Sunday, you can purchase computers, clothes, paper and a variety of others items free of sales tax during South Carolina's annual 72-hour Sales Tax Holiday. Eligible items can be purchased online and in-store without paying the state's 6% sales tax and any applicable local taxes. Learn more about the sales tax holiday and eligible items at <https://dor.sc.gov/taxfreeweekend>.

COVID-19 Screening Event

Thank you to everyone who participated in the free Drive-thru COVID-19 screening event yesterday, including our Fire Rescue Department, Hilton Head Hospital, Volunteers in Medicine and other agencies. More than 400 persons were screened. The next local drive-thru screening event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 from 7 to 11 a.m. at Hilton Head Island High School, 70 Wilborn Road. Should you need a test prior to this



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time, please check with our local hospital – Hilton Head Hospital – which offers free screening daily. You will, however, need a doctor’s order to be screening at the hospital.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control maintains a list of other COVID-19 testing sites on its website at scdhec.gov. In some cases, those tests are free; in other instances, there may be a cost and other requirements associated with the test. If you attend a screening event, DHEC advises that before you leave the event, you confirm with the testing staff how you will receive the results.

Information on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in our community may be found on DHEC’s website and on our COVID-19 hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19.

SC DHEC: SC COVID-19 Cases by County & ZIP Code

The latest confirmed and estimated COVID-19 cases by ZIP code are available as an interactive display on website for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at scdhec.gov. For Hilton Head Island, those zip codes would be 29928 and 29926. You can also find DHEC COVID-19 data on our COVID-19 hub page at hiltonheadislandsc.gov/COVID19. With the number of positive cases, officials continue to urge people to take basic precautions: wash your hands regularly, social distance, wear a face mask, avoid group gatherings and stay home when you are sick.

2021 Accommodations Tax Grant Applications & Workshop

Our grant application for calendar year 2021 accommodations tax (ATAX) grant funds is available online at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov. We will have virtual workshop for applicants at 9 a.m., Thursday, August 13, 2020. During the workshop, staff will be sharing information about the application process so you can thoroughly prepare your application and will answer questions you have about the application. More details will be forthcoming on how you can participate in the workshop.

New Playground Equipment Being Installed at Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park

Today through Tuesday, August 11, the playground and pavilion at the Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park will be closed for installation of additional playground equipment. Ten parking spaces in front of the restroom building will be unavailable for use. Other parking spaces at the facility are open for park visitors. This work was originally scheduled to take place earlier in the week, but was delayed due to changes in the equipment delivery schedule.

This project is being funded with a portion of the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation the Town receives on an annual basis from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Funds were used to add 34



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new parking spaces along the sides of the existing drive aisle in the park. The parking expansion was completed in May. The installation of playground expansion is the second part of this project. The equipment, which includes 13 log-, pine cone- and rock-shaped climbing structures, will be added in the area adjacent to the existing swing. The total cost of the project is \$151,926.

Fifteen Day Public Comment Period Starts for 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

We've prepared a draft of our 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess progress in carrying out our one year action plan for the HUD funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program.

The public has 15 days, from Monday, August 20 through Tuesday, August 25, to review and comment on the report. It will be available on the Town's website at: hiltonheadislandsc.gov/ or via appointment at town hall beginning **Monday, August 10, 2020**. Written comments on the 2019 CAPER are encouraged and may be submitted via the website link, or email to marcyb@hiltonheadislandsc.gov or by mail to Marcy Benson, Senior Grants Administrator, Town of Hilton Head Island Community Development Department, 1 Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.